

Phone :
SLOane 4277

*Lister Institute,
Chelsea Bridge Road,
London, S.W.1.*

29th June, 1954.

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I must apologize for not having written before to thank you for the various reprints you very kindly sent me through Dr. Spicer some months ago. You may have heard in the meantime that I have retired from the Public Health Laboratory Service and returned to the Lister Institute, where I continue to work for the International Committee for Enteric Phage Typing. In connection with this move I have been exceptionally busy and had to neglect many things, including attending to correspondence. I trust you will accept this as sufficient explanation of the long delay in writing to thank you for the reprints which I am very glad to have.

Before leaving Colindale I made arrangements for the preservation and maintenance in proper condition of those special strains of the typhoid-paratyphoid group of organisms which are widely employed in the serological diagnosis of the enteric fevers and in the preparation of TAB vaccine. At Colindale both the National Collection of Type Cultures (Dr. Cowan) and the Standards Laboratory for Serological Reagents (Colonel Bensted) will look after these cultures.

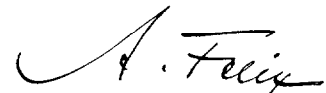
However, in our atomic era it does appear to be advisable to choose several Institutes in different parts of the world where the cultures could be kept in safe custody. As you know from the papers published in the Journal of Hygiene during 1951-52, most of these strains have maintained their special antigenic properties, for which they were originally selected, for very long periods of time, some of them for more than 20 or 30 years. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that with due care these properties can be maintained almost indefinitely, notwithstanding the profound changes that can be induced at will by your new transduction technique.

The total number of these strains is nineteen. Most of them have been dried at the National Collection of Type Cultures. A few are still being kept only in Lemco-agar slabs and/or on Dorset egg slants, but it is intended also to have them dried.

I should feel much reassured if I knew that these strains, most of which I have nursed for nearly a lifetime, will be properly handled in the distant future by competent people in several Institutes. Perhaps you will be good enough to let me know whether you are prepared to include these cultures in the collection maintained in your Laboratory. As soon as I hear that you agree I would send you the series of cultures, in duplicate or triplicate, in dried ampoules and in Lemco-agar stabs or on Dorset egg slants, together with the relevant List giving full details of the strains.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Felix".

Professor Joshua Lederberg,
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University of Wisconsin,
Madison 6,
Wisconsin,
U.S.A.